



WEST ALVINGTON
CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

Friday 20th March 2026

Dear Families,

This week we have all enjoyed the welcome return of sunshine and warmer weather.

Hazel Class had a particularly exciting week as they ventured out on their trip to the Tamar Bridge. The children greatly enjoyed learning about the structure and its history, and the journey by train added an extra layer of excitement to the day. Their behaviour, curiosity, and enthusiasm were a real credit to the school, and we are grateful to the staff and helpers who supported the visit.

Our Year 6 pupils have also been working exceptionally hard, completing their final round of SATs practice papers. They approached the week with maturity and determination, and we are very proud of the effort and resilience they have shown. This practice has been valuable preparation, and their positive attitude has set a strong foundation for the weeks ahead.

Thank you to all parents and carers who were able to attend the meeting on Tuesday to discuss the staff structure for next year. We truly appreciate the time you gave and the thoughtful contributions you made. Your support and engagement are invaluable, and we were very pleased with the constructive ideas shared during and after the discussion.

We look forward to welcoming you into school this afternoon to join us for our Praise Worship where we will celebrate our stars of the week. We will also look at some of the Year 5 and 6 residential photos.

Have a lovely weekend
Mrs Ruston

Dates for your Diary

Monday 23rd March – Easter Service 2.30pm @All Saints Church

Wednesday 25th March-Forest school, Chestnut and Oak class

Thursday 26th March – Music assembly with Mrs Bickle 2.30pm

Tuesday 31st March-Forest school, Chestnut and Hazel class

Thursday 2nd April- Last day of Term

Friday 3rd April- Easter Holidays

Monday 20th April- Non-Pupil Day

Tuesday 21st April- First day of term

Monday 27th April- Year 4 Sailing in Salcombe

Monday 4th May- Year 4 sailing in Salcombe (Optional- Parents to take students)

Monday 11th May – SATs Week

Monday 1st June – Year 4 Residential FaB

Chestnut (Nursery)

We've had a wonderfully creative week in Chestnut Class! The children enjoyed exploring with paint, designing and building their own bridges, and making the most of the sunshine during outdoor learning. It was also lovely to welcome some new families on Tuesday to our Art Express group—we hope they enjoyed their time with us.



Hazel (Reception – Year 2)

I just want to start by saying a big thank you to all the parents in helping to make the trip to the Tamar bridge a great success. The children were so excited to go on a train together, through a tunnel and over the bridge; twice! The staff at the Tamar bridge visitor centre were so impressed with the children's behaviour and their knowledge of bridges with the children asking lots of interesting questions. In English this week, we have started a unit of writing about 'The Crows Tale'. Over the next few weeks, the children will be learning how to write effective sentences for their story. In maths we have been learning how to measure in cm and m. As scientists for science week, we tested materials to find out which were the most appropriate to make a tent out of; before then making a tent to keep teddy dry. There was water everywhere!



Oak (Year 3-Year 6)

Our Year 5 and 6 children returned from last week's residential exhausted but buzzing with stories from their great adventures. It was wonderful to see them dive straight back into school life with such a "ready to learn" attitude. A special shout-out to Year 6, who tackled their SATs practice this week with incredible maturity—not a single complaint was heard! In Design and Technology, we've been continuing our exploration of frame structures. This week, the children used paper straws and pipe cleaners to build their own models. We focused on using triangles to make the frames strong and stable and it was great to see their engineering skills in action.

British Science Week Experiments

To celebrate British Science Week, the children have been channelling their inner scientists through three exciting hands-on investigations:

- **The Shark Experiment:** We explored the link between age and length. The children measured their own heights to see if they could use the data to predict the ages of others, just as marine biologists do with Greenland sharks.
- **The Toast Experiment:** We put "Murphy's Law" to the test! By flipping buttered toast multiple times, the class investigated the probability of it landing butter-side down and looked for patterns in the results.
- **Moon Rover Design:** In our engineering challenge, the children worked in teams to design a lunar rover. They had to consider the extreme terrain of the Moon and give each other feedback to refine their innovative vehicle designs.

Have a lovely weekend.



Attendance

How close is your child to 100% attendance?

Number of days off school a year	Percentage attendance	Number of lessons missed	Level of concern
0 days	100%	0	Perfection
2 days	99%	10 lessons	Excellent
5 days	97%	25 lessons	Good
10 days	95%	50 lessons	Slight concern
20 days	90%	100 lessons	Concern
30 days	85%	150 lessons	Significant concern

Thank you for all your efforts to maximise the children's attendance.

The attendance this week can be seen on the table below.

Whole school attendance (Target 98%)

95%

Hazel (Year R- Year 2)	97.2%
Oak(Year 3- Year 6)	94.1%

Congratulations to our Stars of the Week

Chestnut (Nursery)	Thea for being a super thoughtful and helpful member of our little troop.
Hazel (Year R- Year 2)	Flynn for the interesting questions he asked at the Tamar Bridge visitor centre.
Oak (Year 3 – Year 6)	Year 5 and 6 for their amazing achievements during residential week.

A note from Mrs Dugard for you to be aware of:

We've been made aware of a **WhatsApp group called "Add everybody you know"** that is circulating inappropriate content, including explicit images, memes and videos.

Unfortunately, some children from our school communities may be part of this group.

There are many potential safeguarding risks associated with this WhatsApp group, including:

- Unmoderated content being shared, which may be inappropriate or harmful.
- Exposure of personal information of children and young people to unknown individuals.
- Potential grooming or exploitation risks due to the open and indiscriminate nature of the group.

We strongly advise that you:

- Check your child's WhatsApp today to ensure that they are not part of this group. If they are, remove them immediately

Thank you for your support in keeping our children safe online.

Home learning

Hazel (Year R- Year 2)	Daily reading, please record in reading diaries. Books changed on Thursday. Continue to practice 2, 3, 5, 10 times tables.
Oak (Year 3- Year 6)	HOME LEARNING

The children have been sent home with logins to access our new platform Rollama. Rollama is a web app of activities to practise English grammar, punctuation, spelling, and vocabulary, which uses gamification mechanics to incentivise regular revision and help all children build fluent fundamentals.

Daily Reading

Please ensure your child reads each day and that this is recorded in their reading diary.

Spellings

Regular spelling practise makes a huge difference to confidence and accuracy, so please continue to support your child with their spellings.

SPRING 2 SPELLING

Year 3 & 4

1. Caught 2. Popular 3. Reign 4. Island 5. Mention
6. Special 7. Believe 8. Business 9. Imagine 10. Decide

Year 5 & 6

1. amateur 2. ancient 3. cemetery 4. committee 5. criticise
6. especially 7. exaggerate 8. harass 9. mischievous
10. prejudice

Maths – White Rose Infinity

We encourage all children to log in to White Rose Maths and use the Infinity platform to practise their decimals work. It's a brilliant way to reinforce what we're learning in class.